Plan and sanctioned allocation for the year 1990-91 is Rs. 35 lakhs. The proposed allocation for 1991-92 is Rs. 75 lakhs.

(ix) A system of rewards has been introduced to get intelligence about poachers.

(x) A bill has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha to make Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 more stringent and effective. It includes proposals for enhancing penalties to be awarded to poachers.

India's moves on ending Gulf War

378. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what moves, if any, were made by Government to help resolve the issues after the Gulf War broke out between Iraq and US-allies; and

(b) what was the response of the two parties and the U.N. and other international agencies thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) and (b) The Government of India has been trying to seek a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis It has issued several appeals to the parties concerned to bring the war to an end and restore peace in the Gulf region. It has also taken initiatives in the Security Council and in the Non-aligned Movement for achieving this purpose and has been in touch with the parties to the conflict, members of the Security Council and Chairman of the Non-aligned Movement. Usfortunately, in spite of our efforts and those of other countries, it has not been possible to restore peace in the Gulf region. And the war is not only continuing but has been intensified with the commencement of full-scale ground war.

Bridge over Mahanadi in Phulbani, Orissa

379. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to construct a bridge known as Band-Kiakata over the river Mahanadi in Phulbani district, Orissa with Central Road Fund was under the consideration of the Central Government;

(b) if so, the reasons for which fund has not been santioned for that project so far;

(c) whether priority would be accorded for the project in 1991-92; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) As the actual augmentation of Central Road Fund against which the proposals were invited has not yet taken place, the same have not been processed for approval and it is too early to say whethr priority would be acorded to this project in 1991-92.

Bilateral ties with China

380. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently taken steps to improve bilateral ties with China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to resume border trade between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the steps taken therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The visit of the then Minister of External affairs to China in early February 1991 resulted in enhanced understanding between India and China on various matters of mutuals concern in the bilateral, regional and international spheres. It was decided to restore Consulates

General of the two countries in Bombay and Shanghai, and to resume border trade, for which arrangements are in hand.

The Minister of Commerce visited China in February, 1991 for the second meeting of the Joint Group on Trade, Economic Relations and Science and Technology. During this visit the Annual Trade Protocol for 1991-92 was concluded, and it was decided to intensify and expand cooperation in trade, Joint technology development and joint investment in key areas.

Rengali irrigation project in Orissa

381. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the second phase (phase II) of Rengali irrigation project in Orissa is awaiting the approval of the Central Government;

b) if so, by when the project is expected to be sanctioned; and

(c) the total hectares of land that would be brought under irrigation once the project is executed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) The second phase of Rengali Irrigation Project has not been received at the Centre.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Visit by Romanian President, Foreign Minister of Afghanistan and a Kuwaiti Minister to India

382. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Romanian President, Shri Ion Illiescu, visited during the month of January, 1991 and Foreign Minister of Afghanistan and Kuwait's Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs visited India on the 7th February and 6th February, 1991 respectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the Indian leaders whom they met during the visits;

(d) the nature of talks held; and

(e) whether any agreement has since been signed and if so, the details thereof, seperately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ot (d). The requisite information is furnished in the statement enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

Statement

(i) ROMANIA

The President of Romania, Mr. Ion Iliescu made a brief transit halt in Delhi on 16-1-1991. During this stop-over he had a 45 minutes meeting with our Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekhar, during which they reviewed bilateral relations and discussed international issues of mutual interest. Both leaders agreed that our relations in the economic, scientific, cultural and other fields should be developed to mutual benefit. The Romanian President, Mr.Iliescu, also briefed the Prime Minister on recent developments in Romania and the policies of the Romanian Government.

(ii) AFGHANISTAN

The Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Mr. Abdul Wakil paid an official visit to India at our invitation from 7 to 9 February, 1991. During this visit he met President, Shri R. Venkataraman, Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekhar, Deputy Prime Minister Shri Devi Lal and other prominent leaders of political parties. He held delegation-level talks with the former Minister of External Affairs Shri V. C. Shukla on bilateral regional and international issues of mutul interest with special focus on the Gulf crisis.

(iii) KUWAIT

Mr. Abdul Rehman A. Al Awadhi, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs of the State of Kuwait visited India, as Special Envoy of the Amir of Kuwait, from 6 to 8 February, 1991. He called on the President Shri R. Venkataraman and the Prime